

CLAIMS

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

1. A mounting apparatus for an energy absorbing motor vehicle steering column including a lower mast jacket and an upper mast jacket supported on the lower mast jacket for linear translation relative thereto in the direction of a longitudinal centerline of the steering column in response a longitudinal vector component of an impact on the steering column comprising:
 - a honeycomb molded plastic mounting bracket having a pair of lateral flanges and a center passage closely received around the upper mast jacket and supporting the plastic mounting bracket on the upper mast jacket for linear translation relative thereto in the direction of the longitudinal center line of the steering column; and
 - a clamp means operative to rigidly clamp a planar top of the plastic mounting bracket against a planar panel on a body of the motor vehicle so that the upper mast jacket is supported vertically on the motor vehicle body and the center passage in the plastic mounting bracket defines a slide bearing for the upper mast jacket, a vertical vector component of the impact on the steering column being reacted to the motor vehicle body from the onset of linear translation of the upper mast jacket through the planar top of the plastic mounting bracket and the planar panel on the motor vehicle body and a lateral vector component of the impact on the steering column being reacted to the motor vehicle body from the onset of linear translation of the upper mast jacket through the clamp means thereby to
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positively define the path of an energy absorbing collapse stroke of the upper mast jacket relative to the vehicle body.